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argument can be drawn, for primitive as is the archive-system (or lack of system) of the federal government, many of our states and a few of our counties and cities have made excellent arrangements. We must wish that this remarkable report, and its predecessors, may receive from the new England emerging from the war a most attentive consideration. The present situation, what with losses and confusion and parochialism, is certainly deplorable. The reforms the commission suggests are rational, urgently needed, moderate, and practical. And every notable step forward in one country helps other countries to methodize their archival systems and to substitute order, security, and historical use for chaos, destruction, and neglect.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities. Part I. Introductory: The Lithic Industries. By W. H. HOLMES. [Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 60.] (Washington: Smithsonian Institution. 1919. Pp. xvii, 380.)

STUDENTS of prehistoric anthropology have looked forward with keen anticipation to the publication of the series upon which Professor William H. Holmes has labored for many years. After perusal of the 380 pages of this volume the reader may safely assume that few students will be disappointed. In scope, in method of treatment, in the amount of material presented, the volume leaves little to be desired. Philosophic in tone, it is on a higher plane than any previous publication relating to the lithic industries. Professor Holmes's style is always above praise, and in this latest masterpiece there is no diminution of the sustained literary quality manifested on each page, from first to last. He begins, very properly, with the general anthropological classification of his former chief (Powell), now accepted everywhere. Under this skeleton outline he marshals his sub-divisions and proceeds with his treatise upon each in orderly fashion.

Holmes was long keenly interested in geology, and under that section devoted to chronology, he permits himself full sway with reference to the occupation of the American continent by man in tertiary, or even pleistocene times.

Chapter IX. relates to cultural areas. Number I., the North Atlantic area, may possibly be again sub-divided, since Maine archaeological studies indicate the presence of an extinct tribe, whose artifacts are quite different from those of peoples occupying the area between Charleston, South Carolina, and the mouth of the Connecticut.

From page 159 to the end of the volume, there is afforded us a very complete and technical study of quarrying and the manufacturing of implements. Much of this is new; yet there is a considerable amount of published material included. These pages evince careful research and study.

While, as stated, a full meed of praise should be accorded Professor Holmes for his masterpiece, yet one should hesitate to accept pages 23 and 24. In these Professor Holmes presents illustrations of a problematical winged form, and compares it with a Scandinavian axe. He also quotes Dr. Gordon in support of the theory that the winged problematical forms symbolize the whale's tail. Recently, a complete tabulation was presented of the distribution of thousands of problematical forms in the United States. That tabulation proves conclusively that the winged problematical forms are not numerous along the coast where the Norse were, but on the contrary are in profusion in the Ohio Valley and Wisconsin. Furthermore, upon the New England coast large plummets portraying whales occur; problematical forms are scarce. In western New York and the Ohio Valley, where there were no whales, these curious stone ornaments persist. Again, in the Red Paint Peoples' graves, the few winged stones found are short and have thin, and not sharp edges. These graves are supposed to be the oldest of the North Atlantic area.

The Baltimore classification of prehistoric artifacts is not referred to in the volume. Probably, when Professor Holmes presents his volume on technology, he will make use of this classification, which may be used in grouping stone objects.

In his summary of the evidence for and against the existence of glacial man in this country, Professor Holmes might have included Jacobs Cavern. In this rock-shelter flints and bones were found in solid breccia at a depth of five feet. It was not claimed by the explorers that this proved existence of man thousands of years ago, but the conditions in the cave were such that most observers thought the accumulation was not of comparatively recent date. The important flint quarries on Little River, Tennessee, from which came the eight thousand Hopewell discs, are not mentioned.

However, these are suggestions rather than criticisms. With the exception of pages 23 and 24, which are not in accordance with the tables and observations, there is practically nothing in the book to which searchers after truth in the field of American archaeology may object. Names of some observers are included who have not carried on as extensive explorations in certain areas as others who are not listed. Obviously, such were not intentionally omitted. The immense field to be covered, the multitude of papers, books, and pamphlets, the magnitude of collections—all these factors must be taken into consideration on the part of critical students.

Professor William H. Holmes is the dean of American archaeology. In his book we see the hand of the master-builder—the architect who is able to reconstruct the past.

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD.